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David J. Ryzak
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Burley, Idaho 83318-2637

April 20, 2016

Mr. Paul Baker
Program Manager
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
P. O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RECEIVED
APR 22 2016
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Baker:

Enclosed is the response to "Initial REVIEW OF NOTICE OF INTENTION TO COMMENCE LARGE MINING OPERATIONS."

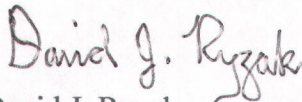
Sawtooth Stone, LLC
Sawtooth Stone #1 Mine

M/003/0067

April 5, 2016

We have addressed only the 4 comments listed in the initial review; and have included the appropriate pages from the document.

Sincerely,



David J. Ryzak
Permit Writer

cc: Bruce Mitchell; Sawtooth Stone Supply

Enclosures

benches per catch bench shown on **Map E** due to the variables explained above under this rule. The present design shows a total of five catch benches at the end of quarry life. There is a sufficient vertical range to allow development of 14 to 15 individual benches of 15 feet maximum height. Development is planned for elevations from 7,480 feet to nearly 7,700 feet as shown on **Map D** and **Map E**.

Wood and all paper products will be incinerated on site. Metal scrap will be taken off the property for recycling. All plastics will be removed from the site for recycling; if available; or for disposal at an approved waste disposal site.

No exploratory drilling is known to have taken place on the property. No exploration or development drilling is planned. No drill hole plugging will be required.

The small drainage along the east side of the quarry completely disappears about 1,800 feet to the north along the slope of the hillside. A stream channel is poorly developed and will carry water only during times of rapid runoff occurring during heavy rain or rapid snow melt. The effect by the quarrying operation on stream flows is insignificant.

107.1 - Public safety & welfare

Map E is a conceptual drawing. Individual quarry benches will be about 15 feet high. When a maximum of 4 individual benches have been completed, a catch bench will be left. The vertical height between catch benches is planned to be approximately 60 feet. Ground conditions may require catch benches be spaced at closer intervals.

Quarry development under this NOI will occur from about 7,480' elevation to 7,800' elevation; a vertical distance of about 320 feet. This will require construction of 10 to 20 catch benches as shown on Section A-A' of **Map F**. The exact location and height of each catch bench has not been determined by the operator. Sections A-A', B-B', C-C' and D-D' show a conceptual placement of the catch benches assuming ground conditions will permit, and that economic conditions will allow extraction of the stone to the depths suggested by the sections. Development is not planned to reach the total shown on **Map F** within the time frame of this NOI.

No shafts, adits, tunnels, or other underground workings are present on the property. No underground workings are planned. This is strictly a surface operation.

The access road and waste dumps have been constructed with safety berms.

A "Mining Area, Restricted Use" sign is posted at the entrance of the access road near its junction with the county road. The public is not allowed to use this road, and are asked to leave if they are found using it.

DOGM to not save all soil materials due to their limited distribution. This was discussed previously under Rule R647-4-106.6.

107.6 - Concurrent Reclamation

Concurrent reclamation will not occur in the near term due to the small size of the operation. Once the operation has enlarged to a sufficient size to allow operations to continue without undue hindrance due to restricted area, it may become practical to perform concurrent reclamation. The southernmost portion of the quarry and dump will be completed first. Once these portions are no longer needed, it may be possible to complete concurrent reclamation.

Concurrent (Interim) reclamation is planned in 2016 for 1.6 acres of the present stone storage/camp as shown on Map G.

V. Rule R647-4-108 - Hole Plugging Requirements

No exploration or development drilling has been completed and no drilling is planned. No hole plugging will be required.

VI. Rule R647-109 - Impact Statement

109.1 - Surface and groundwater systems

The operations are centered on mountain ridges without any known permanent water sources. Excavations will be shallow compared to those developed by typical open pit mining. The pits will be constructed with an outlet through a porous berm to filter sediments. No significant impacts to surface water quality or groundwater quality is expected.

109.2 - Wildlife habitat and endangered species

Big game in the area includes mule deer, cougars, and bobcats. Impacts to wildlife in this area are minimal because quarrying takes place in the more open sagebrush covered areas, and not in the forested areas where wildlife species normally takes cover. The operation will be seasonal due to its location in a mountainous area at about 7,600 feet elevation. There will be no impact on wildlife at all for about six months per year from late October to early to late May, excepting for end of season reclamation work in mid to late October. Also this is a daylight operation only. No quarrying is planned for the night time hours.

~~No threatened or endangered species are known to inhabit this area.~~

The Greater Sage Grouse has been listed by the government as a threatened species. In 2014, the governor of Utah signed the Conservation Plan for Greater Sage Grouse in Utah which includes the operator's site within the Box Elder Sage Grouse Management Area. The operator proposes to mitigate his possible impact to Greater Sage Grouse by providing funding to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to restore habitat at a site managed by the NRCS.

Mitigation will require habitat restoration of 4 acres at the rate of \$250/acre for every acre of new development added by the operator. DOGM has informed the operator he is adding 3 acres of new development under the proposed Amendment. The operator proposes to provide \$3,000 funding to the NRCS to restore 12 acres for Greater Sage Grouse habitat.

No riparian areas exist on the property, therefore there will be no impacts to riparian areas. This is not a waterfowl habitat area so there will be no impacts to waterfowl.

Effects on wildlife are lessened by the landowner limiting the number of hunters that are allowed to enter the area to hunt.

109.3 - Existing soil and plant resources

Existing soil and plant resources were discussed under Rule R647-4-106.5, R647-4-106.6, and R647-4-107.5. See **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**.

No riparian or wetland areas will be affected by the mining operations. No threatened or endangered plants or plant habitats are known to exist in the area to be developed.

109.4 - Slope stability, erosion control, air quality, public health & safety

Stone is located near the surface though in places it is covered with a layer of soil material. The recoverable soil material will be removed and stockpiled for later reclamation. Bench levels will be about 15 feet high, leaving a highwall composed of solid stone. Two to four bench levels may be developed prior to establishment of a safety bench. Safety benches will be installed as needed. These are expected to remain stable for the duration of the operation. Most benches will be covered by waste dumps as discussed under Rule R647-4-107.

Waste dumps are located adjacent to the pits so the total area affected by the operation is at a minimum. The waste dumps have a high percentage of rock unsuitable to sell which should minimize the amount of soil present. This should help reduce erosion to an acceptable level.

Average annual precipitation is about 16 to 22 inches (**Appendix A**). The area receives sufficient moisture so that some moisture is present in the near surface layer at all times. This will minimize the amount of dust created during quarrying activities. No air permits are needed for this operation.

The operator does not plan any drilling and blasting during quarrying operations. These are the types of activities which create the most fugitive dust during operations. Equipment used in the operation of the quarry will typically be moving at a low speed.

a) Soil Material Replacement

Fines from the waste dump will be used to amend the soil materials. The goal will be to provide at least 2 inches of cover suitable for growing vegetation. The lack of any appreciable soil cover will prevent stockpiling of significant quantities of soil materials for reclamation.

A soils analysis from a soil sample taken north of the existing Pit # 1 in 2003, is included as **Appendix B**. Location of the soil sample is shown on **Map C**. Three additional samples were collected November 1, 2005. Two samples were collected from soil materials stockpile fines. The third sample was collected from the slope west of the rock outcrops. The analyses from the soils laboratory is included in **Appendix B**. Location for the soil samples is shown on **Map C**.

Prior to final reclamation, the operator will resample and analyze the soil materials stockpiles so that DOGM can assure soil amendments and/or fertilizer are not needed. Copies of the analyses will be provided to DOGM.

b) Seed Bed Preparation

The seedbeds will be prepared by ripping them with a dozer equipped with ripper teeth spaced not more than 4.0 feet apart. The operator will plan to rip the seedbeds to a depth of 1.0 to 2.0 feet, depending on the depth of loose material.

c) Seed Mixture

The operator will plan to use the Recommended Species List For Final Reclamation provided by DOGM. The seed mixture is attached as **Appendix D**. The operator understands DOGM may revise the seed mixture based on the results of a vegetation survey.

d) Seeding Method

Seed will be broadcast. The seed may be broadcast by hand; or, the seed may be broadcast by attaching a seeder to a piece of equipment. The operator will plan to plant the seed in October or early November.

e) Fertilization

If fertilizer is required, 160 lbs./acre nitrogen (N) and 40 lbs./acre phosphate (P_2O_5) will be incorporated with the soil materials. This is the maximum amount of fertilization recommended by the soils laboratory from their analyses. ~~See Appendix B.~~

To build up the low organic content of the soil materials, DOGM proposes composted manure be added at the rate of five tons per acre just prior to ripping in lieu of fertilizer.

The operator will collect a soil sample for analysis to help DOGM finalize the rate of application for composted manure and/or fertilizer. See Appendix B.

f) Other Revegetation Procedures

The following paragraph from the Third Review of Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations dated November 9, 2006, is incorporated into this NOI.

Variance to R647-4-110.2 and R647-4-111.8 Reclamation of Roads.

The operator has requested that certain roads, including the access road be left unreclaimed. Most of the roads were pre-existing (two-track) roads less than 10 feet wide. The Division will not require full reclamation of the pre-existing roads (however, if roads were widened to accommodate the mining operation, the additional width may require reclamation). For the portions of roads A and B that have been impacted by the operations, the Division will allow a 10-foot width to remain unreclaimed. With regards to the access road (road C), a portion of this road was re-aligned to avoid a seep area. The old section of this pre-existing road was reclaimed. The Division inspected Road C on August 8, 2006. As constructed, the road had an average travel width of 10 feet and an overall width (in the cut/fill section) of 18 feet. The cut/fill section has been vegetated. The Division considers the average 10-foot travel width to not be excessive for post mining access to the property. Therefore, this variance can be approved. See **Appendix F**. **Appendix F** is page 3 of 4 of DOGM's Third Review dated November 9, 2006.

X. Rule R647-4-113 - Surety

The reclamation surety estimate is based on a total development of 21.0 acres at the end of quarry development. See **Appendix G**.

Of 21.0 total acres to be developed, 0.8 acre is proposed to be excluded from reclamation under a variance discussed under Rule R647-4-112. This leaves 20.2 acres to be reclaimed.

The operator deposited \$37,400.00 in cash to DOGM in 2007, for the surety requirement following approval of the NOI. The review dated April 5, 2016 incorrectly states the following "Currently the Division holds a surety in the form of a Letter of Credit (LOC) for \$37,400.00."

XI. PERMIT FEE

The initial submission fee of \$350.00 was sent to DOGM approximately on July 5, 2005. The usual permit fee for a proposed operation ranging from 5 to 50 acres is \$500.00. The operator received a credit from DOGM of \$150.00 for the permit fee for Permit #S003067.